

Fairfield County Sheriff's Office

Dave Phalen, Sheriff



Underspeed Vehicle Information Packet

An underspeed vehicle is described as a four-wheeled vehicle, other than a truck, that is either originally designed and constructed with a top attainable speed of 20 MPH or less, or is not originally designed and constructed for operation on a street or highway. Most golf carts fall under this description and therefore are considered an underspeed vehicle.

There are several requirements that must be met in order to legally operate an underspeed vehicle on the roadways of Canal Winchester. Included in this information is a copy of the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office Inspection Certificate for underspeed vehicles so you can make sure your underspeed vehicle meets the requirements before scheduling your inspection.

Here are the steps you will need to complete in order to certify your underspeed vehicle for operation on public roadways:

1. First you will need to go to the Village of Canal Winchester Office, located at 36 South High Street, and pay your inspection fees. You will then be given a receipt that you will need to show the Deputy when your underspeed vehicle is inspected.
2. Next, someone from the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office will contact you to schedule a time to have your underspeed vehicle inspected. This is the first step in legalizing your underspeed vehicle for operation on a roadway. **(Written documentation showing State Minimum Liability Insurance coverage on the underspeed vehicle must be shown at the time of the inspection.)** Once all inspection requirements have been met, you will be given an Inspection Certificate to take to the Title Office in either Fairfield or Franklin County.
3. Next, you will take your Inspection Certificate, Proof of Insurance and Proof of Ownership to the Title Office. Once they have verified that everything is in order, they will issue you a Certificate of Title.
4. Finally you will need to take the above items to a Deputy Registrar where they will verify you have completed the above steps and then you will be issued the license plates for your underspeed vehicle.

Operation of your underspeed vehicle must be in accordance ALL motor vehicle laws located within the Ohio Revised Code and the Canal Winchester Codified Ordinance, including having a valid operator's license.

The following are excerpts from the Ohio Revised Code and Canal Winchester Codified Ordinance of some of the requirements that must be met in order for your underspeed vehicle to be operated on the roadways of Canal Winchester.

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- **Canal Winchester Codified Ordinance 333.04(C):** No person shall operate an underspeed motor vehicle, including but not limited to a golf cart, on any public roadway where the posted speed limit for such roadway is 35 MPH or greater, except when crossing such roadway is required to comply with this ordinance. No person shall operate an underspeed vehicle on a public sidewalk or other leisure path.
- **ORC 4503.21:** No person who is the owner or operator of a motor vehicle shall fail to display in plain view on the front and rear of the motor vehicle the distinctive number and registration mark, including any county identification sticker and any validation sticker issued under sections 4503.19 and 4503.191 of the Revised Code, furnished by the director of public safety.
- **ORC 4507.02:** No person shall permit the operation of a motor vehicle upon any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking knowing the operator does not have a valid driver's license issued to the operator by the registrar of motor vehicles under this chapter or a valid commercial driver's license issued under Chapter 4506 of the Revised Code.
- **ORC 4509.101:** No person shall operate, or permit the operation of, a motor vehicle in this state, unless proof of financial responsibility is maintained continuously throughout the registration period with respect to that vehicle, or, in the case of a driver who is not the owner, with respect to that driver's operation of that vehicle.
- **ORC 4513.05:** Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with at least one tail light mounted on the rear which, when lighted, shall emit a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear. Either a tail light or a separate light shall be so constructed and placed as to illuminate with a white light the rear registration plate and render it legible from a distance of fifty feet to the rear.
- **ORC 4513.06:** Every motor vehicle shall carry at the rear, either as a part of the tail lamps or separately, two red reflectors of such size and characteristics and so maintained as to be visible at night from all distances within three hundred feet to fifty feet from such vehicle.
- **ORC 4513.071:** Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with two or more stop lights which shall be mounted on the rear of the vehicle, actuated upon application of the service brake, and may be incorporated with other rear lights. Such stop lights when actuated shall emit a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear
- **ORC 4513.16:** Any motor vehicle may be operated under the conditions specified in section 4513.03 of the Revised Code when it is equipped with two lighted lights upon the front thereof capable of revealing persons and substantial objects seventy-five feet ahead, in lieu of lights required in section 4513.14 of the Revised Code, provided that such vehicle shall not be operated at a speed in excess of twenty miles per hour.
- **ORC 4513.21:** Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with a horn which is in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible, under normal conditions, from a distance of not less than two hundred feet.
- **ORC 4513.23:** Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a mirror so located as to reflect to the operator a view of the highway to the rear of such vehicle.
- **ORC 4513.24:** No person shall drive any motor vehicle on a street or highway in this state that is not equipped with a windshield.
- **ORC 4513.261:** No person shall operate any motor vehicle unless the vehicle is equipped with electrical or mechanical directional signals.

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